

1924-25

KENYA
UGANDA

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REC'D
7 FEB 25

85

CORRYDON, SIR R.T. S.G.

Date
21 December 1924.

Mr. *B. B. B.*

COMPULSORY LABOUR FOR RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION
AND HANDLING OF COTTON.

Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.

Inadequacy of transport has resulted in very grave position, particularly with regard to transport of Cotton and Coffee. Efforts being made to obtain labour shd be backed by power of compulsion. Grave insufficiency of labour also at Kisumu and Uganda piers.

Permit U.S. of S.
Part U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

lyn. 5869/25
see 4 of 6 57940/24 Uga.
see 8 U. 2929/25 Kya.

The telegrams, of which copies are enclosed, are now over two months old, and much must have happened since then. The West Nile labour was to arrive mid-January: it may have been found possible to expedite it. I agree that Uganda should provide its own labour requirements, but I think we must assume it is doing so, unless and until the Uganda Govt. reports that this new West Nile labour scheme has proved *unworkable*.

see 2929/25 Uga. 11.1.25

Subsequent Paper

lyn. 7189/25

W. J. H.

MINUTES.

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

As Uganda has not
interfered on this point or on
that of railway construction -
taken the line that as
the railway is a relevant
concern it should find
its own labour, I agree that
it is pretty safe to assume
that something has been
done. But they are
likely to get that any
delays in moving the
Colon will at once lead
to Parliamentary
Questions, which will be
answered by an assumption
- it will be usual to call to
Uganda to the effect that
the S. of S. business that
Colon has been found?

[This sort of work among
Commands high ways, &
I am not sure that it would
not have been better to

offer more and get local people
The local people are an expensive
to bring and a large row that
they may increase confusion)

minutes also on
589. Section
standing on
29 + 801.

Gas. 4 2 25

W 29/2/25

certain telegraph to Uganda
as proposed at once

W 29.2.25

I have minuted 589, 801.

2929 seems to be a matter
for the Crown Agents.

offer more and get local people
The last file notes, are expensive
to bring and are so raw that
they may increase confusion)

insert also on
589. Action
standing on
29 + 801.

Gas. 4 2 25

W 9/2/25

certain telegraphs to Uganda
as proposed at once

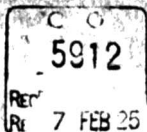
W 9.2.25

I have uninitiated 589, + 801.

X 2929 seems to be a matter
for the Crown Agents.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
KENYA,
EAST AFRICA.

28th December 1934.



Dear Mr. Ormsby-Gore,

For 825²⁴/₂₁

By this or last mail I sent an official despatch recommending, if it should prove necessary, the use of compulsory native labour for railway construction. I now send semi-officially copies of Felling's letters to me and of telegrams he has exchanged with Uganda. I did not include them in my despatch because of course I do not touch Uganda affairs; Felling is a servant of both countries.

The position is really grave, and we will all be in serious trouble over handling the Uganda cotton crop this season, and more so next season, if Railway construction is to be delayed. Incidentally my coffee people are losing many tons of valuable ripe coffee, though the neighbouring reserves are full of comparatively idle natives. As soon as the Duke goes off on Safari I am holding Barazas in Kikuyu and Kavirondo to encourage natives to come out for works of public utility; but they have had good crops and ready markets, and I'm afraid that neither circulars to Administrative officers nor Barazas will have much effect unless backed, once in a while, by a Government order....

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
KENYA,
EAST AFRICA.

2.

order. The bales of Uganda cotton are now coming out, and the delay, waste and congestion are becoming really serious. Uganda labour should handle their own crop, from which the growers derive great profit.

I note in Reuter Mr. Amery's reply recently in the House to the effect that every endeavour was being made as to the transportation of Uganda cotton, but however perfect the mechanical arrangements may be, their value is very greatly reduced if there is no native labour to build the new railways or to handle the produce. The position is nearly as bad in Kenya as it is in Uganda.

Yours sincerely,

R. T. Compton

Nairobi.
6th December, 1924.

33

Dear Sir Robert,

The position of the Railway in the matter of the shortage of labour is becoming very serious.

We have been short of labour on the Thika Nyeri extension, on the relaying near the Coast, and, in fact, on all our works throughout Kenya and Uganda.

It is essential now for all administrative officials to assist us, and especially the officials in Kavirondo.

An alarming feature is the lack of a sufficiency of labour at the Kisumu piers and the extreme shortage of labour at the Uganda piers.

In this connection the attached copies of telegrams exchanged with the Uganda Government are self-explanatory. The position is that 150 Kavirondos are leaving Jinja in two days' time, their time having expired, while large numbers of time-expired men are steadily leaving Port Bell and Namasagali. With the shortage of labour in Kenya no assistance for Uganda piers can be given from here.

Of course, we cannot handle the traffic without labour, and I can only hope that both Governments will realize the need for drastic action in the matter of assistance in labour before the position becomes impossible.

Meanwhile,...

His Excellency
Sir Robert Coryndon, K.C.M.G.,
Government House,
Nairobi.

Meanwhile, as our troubles are increasing daily, I think I should let you know the position.

Yours sincerely,
(sd). C.N. Felling.

Copy of telegram dated 6th December, 1924.
From - Railways, Nairobi.
To - Chief Secretary, Entebbe.

E.1052. Trust you are taking action to assist us obtaining labour for Jinja Port Bell and Namasagali as position again shows signs of becoming serious. One hundred and fifty time expired Kavirondo leave Jinja next week and owing extreme shortage labour Kisumu cannot send others across. Wharves sheds and yards Kilindini Piers full with imports largely for Uganda and further large tonnages still coming in steadily. Seventy trucks under load Kisumu today. am taking action to meet position Kisumu but unless necessary labour forthcoming Uganda piers anticipate congestion imports and forthcoming cotton crop. Would urge that matter of pier labour receive active attention your Government.

Cop. telegram dated 6th December, 1924.
From - Chief Secretary, Entebbe.
To - Railways, Nairobi.

55/1 6/12. Marine Kisumu have requested
piermaster Jinja apply this Government for immediate
supply 200 labourers alternative holding up cargo.
This labour cannot be supplied before middle January
and will be raw labour from West Nile on four months
contract only.

Copy.

Copy of telegram addressed to the Chief Secretary,
Entebbe, from the General Manager, Uganda Railway,
Nairobi, dated 8th December, 1924.

Am much disappointed and concerned at your
telegram re labour. If labour for Uganda Piers is
not obtainable until middle January and then only
raw labour holding up of Uganda traffic may be
inevitable. As wired you Saturday shortage of labour
in Kenya is acute and we shall be able to carry on only
with active assistance Kenya Government. Therefore
Uganda Piers cannot be assisted further with Kavirondo
labour. Please reply what action is being taken as
I must decide what to do. Am most anxious to avoid
anything in regard your traffic which may result
serious financial loss to Uganda.

P.R. 20
Govt 5912/25
Ind.

C. D.
R 11 FEB.
D 14

Amud
8560 kga

Calcutta
11/2/25

11 Feb.

DRAFT. *Telly.*

Govt.
Patil

MINUTE.

- Mr. *Callar* 10.2.25
- Mr. *P. Stanley* 10.2
- Mr. *...*
- Mr. J. Shackburgh.
- Sir G. Dumas.
- Sir G. Orindle.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Lord Arnold.
- Mr. Thomas.

In view of interest taken

in movement of cotton
of crop *telegraph*

whether adequate labour

has been secured for work

on wharves and railways

in regard to
and whether serious competition

and delays are being

avoided